

TIME TO RENDEZVOUS HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON THE RIVER

The land along the Minnesota River bluffs where Native Americans, fur traders and settlers once lived, holds a history as deep and as rich as its soil.

Native Americans subsisted off the land by hunting, gathering and farming. This is also where missionary Gideon Pond eventually settled and built his home in 1856.

It may be hard to imagine that the river bluffs were once populated by the villages of the Dakota Indians. A visit to the City's River Rendezvous at Pond-Dakota Mission Park, 401 East 104th Street, on **Saturday**,

September 25, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., may help spark your imagination.

Since it began in 1995, River Rendezvous has demonstrated the lifestyles of people living in Minnesota between 1830 and 1870 through storytelling and interactive, hands-on demonstrations. You'll learn about early trades and crafts, the fur trade and pioneer life, while enjoying festive music and dance.



For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

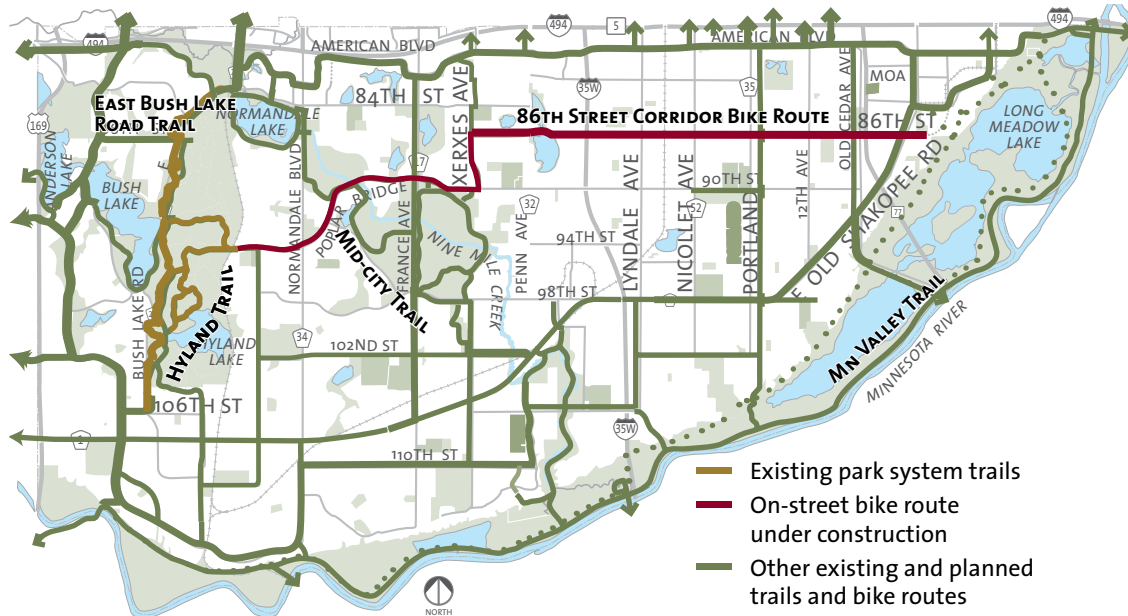
WEBSITE KEYWORD: RENDEZVOUS.

BIKEABLE, WALKABLE BLOOMINGTON TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

During the City's strategic planning process to develop *Imagine Bloomington 2025*, Bloomington residents indicated that bicycle and walking trails were their number one desired recreational amenity.

As part of implementing *Imagine Bloomington 2025*, the City created the *Alternative Transportation Plan*, a blueprint for a system that encourages walking and biking and increases quality of life for all Bloomington residents.

The Plan includes recommendations for building more trails and improving existing trails, walkways and other pedestrian-level infrastructure. Many trail improvements have already been completed or are in progress.



The pedestrian and bike trail along East Bush Lake Road from 106th to 84th streets was completed in 2008. The trail provides non-motorized access from the various residential and office developments to Hyland Park Reserve, Bush Lake Beach, Richardson Nature Preserve, Forest Glen Trail and Normandale Lake.

The *Alternative Transportation Plan* recently identified a primary east-west corridor for bike and pedestrian trips that runs from Hyland Park along West 94th Street to Poplar Bridge Road; 90th Street from France Avenue to Xerxes Avenue; and 86th Street to East Old Shakopee Road. The corridor will provide trail access to destinations such as City parks, schools and commercial centers including the Mall of America.

This year, the City Council voted to convert portions of 86th Street between Xerxes Avenue and East Old Shakopee Road from a four-lane to a three-lane configuration with one lane in each direction, a continuous dual left-turn lane and bike lanes on each side.

The long-term changes approved for 86th Street include improvements at Lyndale Avenue to continue the bike route through the intersection, along with safety improvements to the intersections of 86th Street, and Nicollet and Portland avenues.

Bloomington Public Health also plays a role in ensuring the city is more pedestrian friendly. The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) is helping to support street designs that accommodate walking and biking. Through SHIP, new bike racks were recently installed at schools and other locations throughout the city. *See page 5.*

In addition, the City has a Transportation Demand Management Plan to promote efficient use of existing transportation facilities, reduce traffic congestion and vehicle pollution, and ensure that new developments are designed in ways that increase the use of bikes, sidewalks and transit.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SUSTAINABILITY.

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When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.



FRESH AND LOCAL FARMERS MARKET DELIVERS

The fourth annual Farmers Market opened June 12 with fresh, locally grown foods, cooking demonstrations, entertainment and kids' activities.

The Farmers Market takes place at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, **every Saturday, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., through October 16.** For more information, call Farmers Market Coordinator Keri Lahl at 952-563-8877.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FARMERS MARKET.

AWARD WINNING CITY WINS BIG IN COMPETITION

The City brought home three Awards of Excellence at the Minnesota Association of Government Communicators' (MAGC) Northern Lights Awards for the *Briefing, 2009 Corporate Report to the Community* and the *Insider*, the City's internal newsletter. The *Briefing* and *Corporate Report* were also "Best of Show" nominees, two of only 12 award-winning entries nominated for this honor. Out of the 26 awards Bloomington has received from this local contest since 2004, 20 were Awards of Excellence.

BOOK 'EM ANOTHER RECORD SALE

The Book 'em used book sale raised a record \$106,500 for crime prevention and awareness programs.

Bloomington Crime Prevention Association is seeking grant applications for crime prevention initiatives through September 3. For more information, visit www.bcpamn.org.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON BRIEFING, AUGUST 2010

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